United States Embassy La Paz, Bolivia Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Road Blocks and Protests in Potosi, Tarija and Sucre July 29, 2015

U.S Embassy La Paz advises U. S. citizens living and traveling in Bolivia that police authorities are recommending against travel to the cities of Potosi, Tarija, and Sucre, due to the on-going road blocks and miner protests. Be aware that these protests may last for several more weeks, and will continue to impact ground transportation throughout the country, including popular tourist routes to/from Lake Titicaca and the salt flats in Uyuni. If you plan to travel by car or bus in Bolivia, expect delays, and carry extra food and water.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

The U.S. Embassy encourages you to review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Be vigilant and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

Regularly monitor the State <u>Department's website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Bolivia</u>. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bolivia enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the U.S. Embassy.

You can stay in touch and receive Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found here. You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Thursday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) or 591-2-216-8500 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting our website.

The Embassy operates one Consular Agency in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477, during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agency for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through our website.

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, by calling the regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips.